GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4107
ANSWERED ON:23.12.2015
National Knowledge Network
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government has established National Knowledge Network (NKN)
(b) if so, the objectives of the NKN; and
(c) the number of institutions connected in this network and the steps being taken to connect all institutes in the country?

Answer

(a): Yes, Sir. The Government of India has established the National Knowledge Network (NKN). The establishment of NKN was approved in March 2010.

(b) and (c): The Objective of the NKN is to inter-connect all knowledge institutions across the country through high speed data communication network to encourage sharing of resources and collaborative research. These cover over 1500 Institutes comprising of all Universities, Research Institutions, and Institution of Higher Learning.

To enable to connect to International R & D technology Institutions; a connectivity to Trans-Eurasia Information Network (TEIN) exists on NKN. These high speed networks provide seamless access to scientific information and data repositories worldwide.

NKN facilitate creation, acquisition and sharing of Knowledge resources among the large participating Institutions seamlessly − across the nation and globally. It would bridge the existing knowledge gap in the country, and help the country evolve as a Knowledge Society and spur economic activities in the Knowledge domain.

The salient features of the NKN are:
(i) Establishing an ultra high-speed national information network for the country.
(ii) Connecting all major knowledge institutions (Universities & Research Institutions) for knowledge creation, collation and dissemination.
(iii) Connecting the Indian knowledge institutions to the International knowledge community for knowledge sharing.
(iv) Enabling sectoral virtual networks in various application areas (Agriculture, Health, Education, E-governance and Grid Computing).
(v) Setting up a platform for development of new processes and technologies based on high bandwidth and low latency networks.
(vi) Enabling a test-bed for network and securing technology development for the country.
As on 30th November 2015 a total of 1500 links to Institutions have been commissioned and made operational. This includes 368 links to institutions under NMEICT, which have been migrated to NKN. NKN connectivity has also been extended to 436 NIC district centers.
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